

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 32-39 as follows:

Please cancel claims 1-31 follows:

1-31. (Cancel)

32. (New) A method of providing suction and irrigation to an open wound surface comprising the steps of:

providing a relatively thin and flexible member having a wound contacting surface with holes in the surface, a port to be attached to a vacuum source and a fluid source for irrigation, and passageways connecting the holes to the port,

placing the wound contacting surface against the surface of the wound,

providing a cover over and sealed about the wound and the member to define a space above the wound in which a vacuum is formed when the port is connected to a vacuum source.

33. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the flexible member is transparent for observing the surface of the wound.

34. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of irrigating the surface of the wound by expelling irrigation fluid from the holes.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the irrigating step includes irrigating the surface of the wound by introducing irrigation fluid through a plurality of irrigation ports in communication with the holes of the member.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising the step of spacing the wound contacting surface apart from the wound surface of the wound.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the spacing step includes providing spacers coupled to the wound contacting surface.

38. (New) A method of treating an open wound surface comprising the steps of:

placing a relatively thin and flexible member adjacent the wound surface, the member having a surface adapted to face the wound with holes in the surface, a port, and passageways connecting the holes to the port,

spacing the surface of the member apart from the wound surface to define a space between the wound and the surface of the member,

covering the wound and the member with a film,

sealing the film to healthy skin surrounding the wound to create a sealed environment between the film and the wound surface,

coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source,

creating a negative pressure in the space between the wound and the surface of the member,

coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source, and

irrigating the wound surface by sending an irrigation liquid from the irrigation source through the member to the surface of the wound.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the port of the member is a first port and the member includes a second port, and wherein the step of coupling a port of the member to a vacuum source includes coupling the first port to the vacuum source, and further wherein the step of coupling the port of the member to an irrigation source includes coupling the second port to the irrigation source.